

## Marijuana Policy Review Panel Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2006  
City Hall, Room 214  
5:40-7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Steve Brown, Alison Holcomb, Dominic Holden, Thereyn Kigvamaudvashti, Nick Licata, Kris Nyrop,  
Members Absent: Tom Carr, D'Adre Beth Cunningham, Tom Rasmussen, Dan Satterberg, Kenneth D. Stark,  
Staff: Erin Becker (King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office), Nancy Roberts

Motion was made, duly seconded and carried, to approve the meeting minutes from December 15, 2005.

### Housekeeping

#### **1) New member needed - "drug abuse prevention counselor"**

*Ken Stark* is no longer on the panel; a "drug abuse prevention counselor" is needed, per ordinance. *Nancy Roberts* will draft a letter offering *Doug Allen*, who replaced *Ken Stark* in his old job, the opportunity to nominate himself for the panel membership. If he declines, the position will be open to nominations, which will be directed to *Zuzka Lehocka-Howell*. Panel members will be informed immediately either way.

#### **2) Nick Licata's panel membership**

*Nick Licata* will talk to *Tom Rasmussen* and get back to the panel.

### Update on the \$20,000 requested for a research consultant

By April 1, *Nick Licata* will look into clarifying the method of distributing funds. What is a realistic estimate of cost? *Tom Rasmussen* is checking to see if Council's Central Staff can do the research in-house. A scope needs to be drafted, a narrative needs to be put together to interpret data. Fiscal, public administration and public health impacts all need to be addressed. The panel is required to report to the Full Council on the first Full Council meeting of 2007.

### Ordinance 122025 amendment update

The ordinance was amended only with regard to dates – no substantive changes.

**Figures regarding SPD arrests and City prosecutions:** The issue was tabled, since there are discrepancies in the figures and *Tom Carr* was not there to clarify. The prosecuting attorney's office will reconcile the figures with *Tom Carr* and report back at the next meeting.

### Marijuana Reports

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office used to regularly receive from SPD copies of any reports that involved marijuana, but they no longer receive them. *Steve Brown* promised to re-institute the practice of sending those reports quarterly.

### City Attorney's Reports

*Nick Licata* asked that *Zuzka Lehocka-Howell* draft a letter for his signature, asking for the City Attorney's reports for 2005 – reports that the panel has received in the past.

### **Discussion re reporting criteria**

There had been talk about the panel receiving aggregate numbers of cases that SPD referred to King County or City Attorney's offices. Those offices are not currently required to report that information. *Steve Brown* discussed the differences in routing of misdemeanor and felony cases; that cases not charged wouldn't be counted. All reports go through SPD records. They may then go straight to Seattle Municipal Court. However, ultimately, all cases do go to the City Attorney.

### **Public Comment:**

Questions regarding medical marijuana use:

- SPD's medical marijuana policy – the 9 plant rule
- Policy was established in the '90's
- The law was open to interpretation and SPD needed guidelines
- How a person could find rules and regulations regarding marijuana
- What law allows SPD to determine what a supply should be?
- How did the "60-day supply" come to be the standard?
- Discussion re another way to determine supply – use dry weight – "useable, medicine stage".

*Steve Brown* agreed that SPD could do better in making their policy and practices known to the public. He acknowledged receipt of a public disclosure request regarding this issue and explained that he is working on getting the information together – a very cumbersome task. He asked for specific cases of medical marijuana intrusions by SPD so he can address their concerns factually. He stated that officers generally respond for another reason, enter the home, see the plants, and have to use their guidelines to make the decision whether to call in Narcotics. It is up to the patient to prove the medical marijuana defense. SPD continues to work on guidelines that guide the officers' decision-making process.

*Steve Brown* agreed to check with Captain Mochizuki to determine the status of an ongoing working group made up of SPD and members of the medical marijuana community. *Nick Licata* suggested that there are diverse opinions in the medical marijuana community. He suggested that *Steve Brown* present a summary at the next meeting of any existing SPD/medical marijuana groups – who they are, what their charge is, how they were created, what they're doing. The current visitors need a venue. *Steve Saritch* of the medical marijuana community is available for contact and involvement.

There was discussion around the idea of having a representative from the medical marijuana user community on the panel. It was explained that they were invited to be on the panel initially, but specifically decided not to join.

The medical marijuana issue is not an issue that the panel is charged with reviewing.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, June 15, 2006  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
City Hall, Room 370